



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Grand Canyon National Park
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023-0129

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7617(GRCA-8211)

Dear Interested Party:

Reference: Grand Canyon Greenway trail system from Canyon View Information Plaza (CVIP) to Grand Canyon Transit Center north of Tusayan

Subject: Comments on proposed Greenway (General Scoping)

The National Park Service (NPS) is planning for the Greenway Trail System (Greenway) (CVIP to Grand Canyon Transit Center). This project is expected to start construction in summer 2002. It is being planned to provide multi-use access to the park, to provide a safer, more enjoyable visitor experience, and to link Tusayan with other trails in the park. The Greenway is consistent with the 1995 Grand Canyon National Park *General Management Plan*.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared to facilitate the decision-making process for this project. A description of the project follows along with a brief justification for why the work is needed, and it is displayed on the attached map.

This project is a portion of a larger project (approximately 7 miles in length) cleared by a Categorical Exclusion (CE) in May 1999. It consists of approximately 2.3 miles of trail (not covered by the CE) constructed in areas that have not been disturbed or used. The trail will be eight to ten feet wide with a surface constructed with soil hardeners unless erosion problems require pavement in small exposed areas. The two areas to be addressed in the EA are:

1. A 1.6 mile trail segment that begins south of CVIP off the utility corridor and travels south on the west side of Highway 64 and then crosses Highway 64 just south of the highway's junction with Desert View Drive. The trail segment then parallels the east side of Highway 64 and continues south to a point where it connects with an existing two track.
2. A 0.7 mile trail segment that starts across Highway 64 from Moqui Lodge (near the park boundary) and continues northeast up a ravine and then connects with an existing two-track trail.

These improvements will clear a footprint for the trail that will occupy a linear corridor of 2.8 acres. Wherever possible the trail will be located to minimize the removal of existing vegetation including trees.

The 1995 *General Management Plan* recognized the need for alternative means of transportation in the park. Currently there is no safe way to walk or ride a bicycle into the park from Tusayan except by using Highway 64. Visitors have to compete with cars and buses and do not have trail access from Tusayan. There is no extended shoulder on this road for safe bicycle travel. The Greenway will provide an improved visitor experience for those individuals that would enjoy leaving motorized transportation outside the park and venture in on their own away from the hazards of other vehicles. It will also connect with a system of Greenway trails that extend into Grand Canyon Village and to Yavapai Point and will be

integral to the mass transit system at Grand Canyon National Park. The location of the trail has been selected to reduce impacts to wildlife and cultural resources in the area, while separating the visitors from Highway 64 wherever possible.

The purpose of this scoping letter is to describe the initial proposed action for the project and to solicit comments from those who may have issues or concerns regarding the proposal. We would like your comments before we proceed further with the environmental analysis. If you have issues or concerns please send your comments by April 27, 2001 to:

Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park
ATTN: Sara White, Chief Compliance Officer
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Please be aware that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Anonymous comments may be included in the public record. However, the National Park Service is not legally required to consider or respond to anonymous comments.

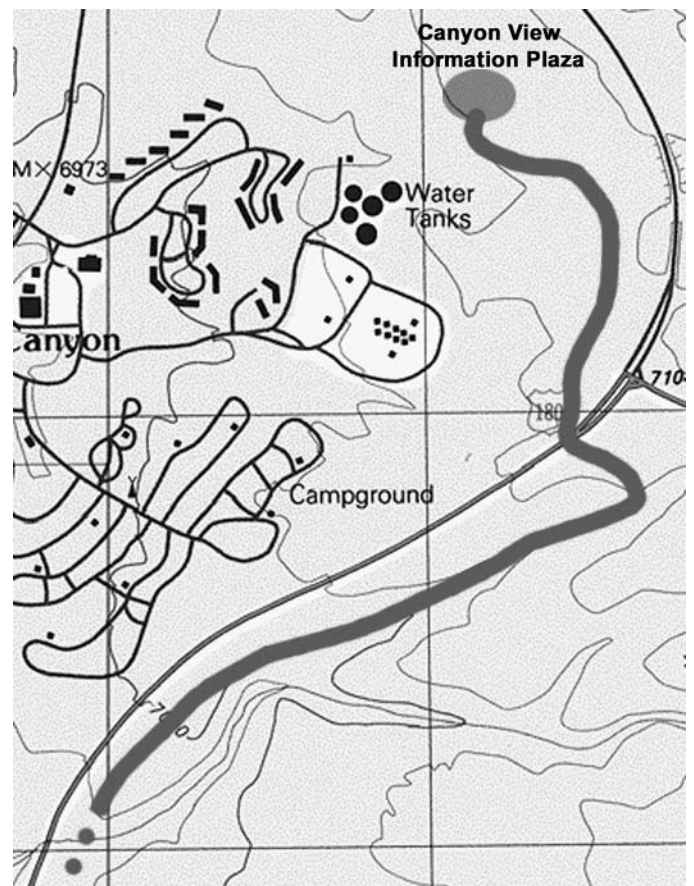
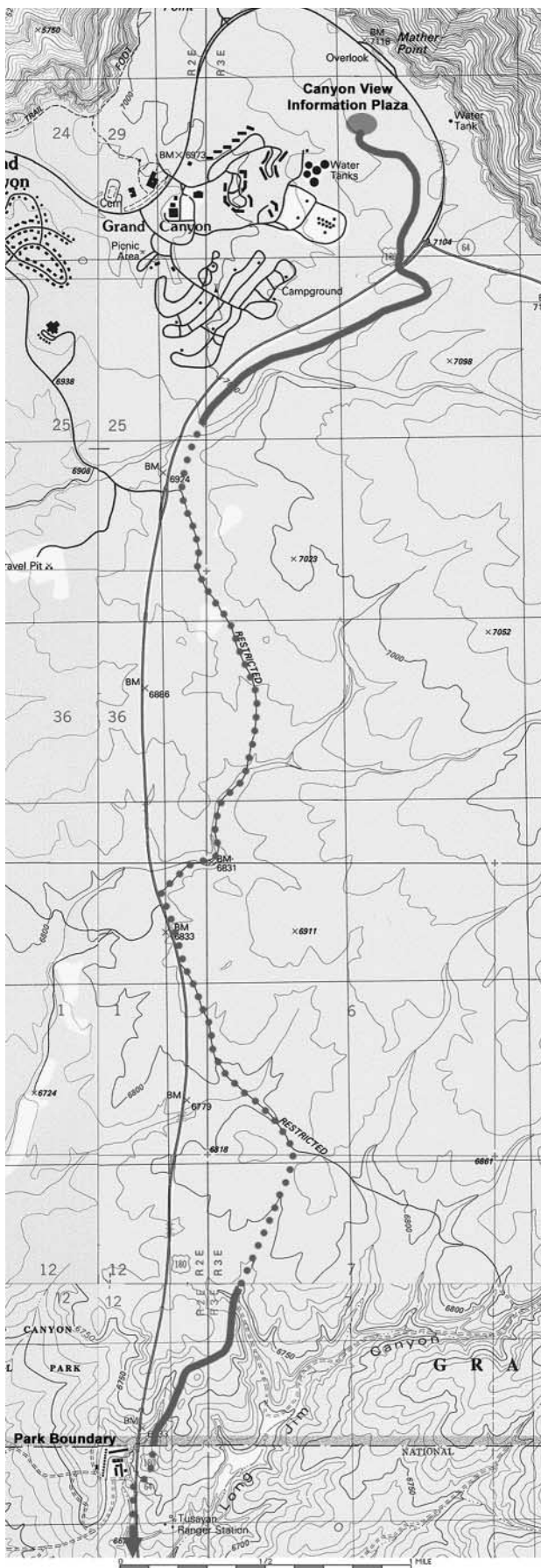
If you have any questions regarding the projects, please call Michael Terzich at 520-774-3402.

Sincerely,

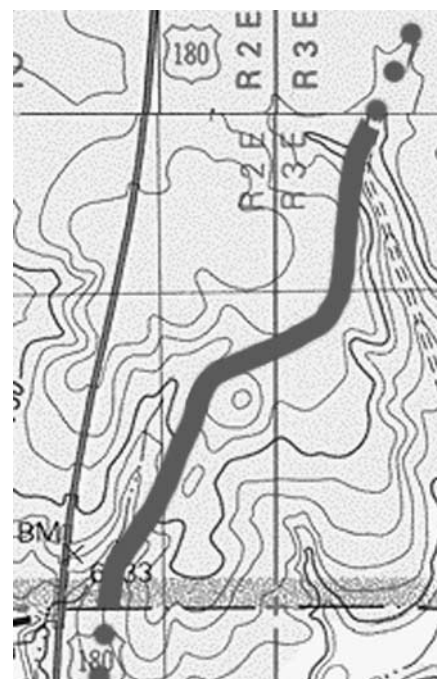
Joseph F. Alston
Superintendent

Enclosure

CANYON VIEW INFORMATION PLAZA TO GRAND CANYON TRANSIT CENTER GREENWAY MAP



Segment 1



Segment 2

- Project Segments
- Other Greenway Segments